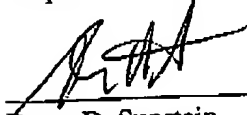


claim 1. The second paragraph of claim 167 is similar to the subject matter of the canceled claims. Further support for the subject matter of the added claims 167 through 173 appears in the application on page 23, line 6 through page 24, line 4 (repeatability, coefficient of variation and common amplification efficiencies, common specificity optimization) and page 25, line 10 through page 26, line 31 (implementation, including primer-probe design, for desired performance including common efficiencies of amplification). The percentages in claims 168 through 171 are disclosed in the application as cited above. The reference to "fewer than 500" in claim 173 appears in the application, p. 23, line 1, and the reference to "at least three" in claim 172 appears in claim 53 and page 22, line 28.

Support for claim 174 exists in present claims 31 and 32, as well as (for example) page 22, lines 13-17 (also referring to Figures 20 and 22 showing calibrated profiles of whole blood treated with herbal agents using markers for liver metabolism, so that blood is used to evaluate liver metabolism). See also, for example, page 38, lines 6-11 and passim wherein rheumatoid arthritis may be evaluated with blood. See also, page 37, line 25 through page 38, line 5 (example of quantitation of gene expression in a blood cell to predict toxicity in another tissue or organ) and page 38, lines 6-24 (gene expression from blood cells for prognosis of severity and prediction of adverse reactions in treatment of an autoimmune disease). Also more generally, page 36, line 4 and following. Also the application is replete with instances wherein gene expression data from blood is used for monitoring biological conditions.

Applicants believe that the added claims are clear of the art and therefore request examination and allowance of same.

Respectfully submitted,



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